

World War II Memorial that was built to honor the 16 million Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, and Merchant Mariners who served our Nation during World War II.

With the strong belief that everything good in his life is because of these courageous veterans, Mr. Miller began a campaign to send every World War II veteran from Henderson County to Washington, DC to see the memorial, which opened in 2004. World War II veterans who had not already been to the memorial and had physical or financial limitations were offered the chance to take the trip. The community came together to raise the money to fund the project. Many community groups, businesses and individuals contributed to this project, allowing these brave veterans to travel to Washington to see the memorial that was built in their honor. Mr. Miller, the Honor Air volunteers and contributors have all given something back to those for whom the debt can never be repaid. By the time it makes its last flight, 625 veterans from Hendersonville, NC will have made the Honor Air trip.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in expressing my appreciation and admiration for Jeff Miller, who made it possible for so many of our veterans to have the opportunity to see the National World War II Memorial.

**EMPLOYEE BENEFIT RESEARCH
INSTITUTE 30TH ANNIVERSARY—
TRIBUTE**

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, among the key areas of jurisdiction for the Education and Labor Committee are employee benefits—specifically, retirement and health benefits—that are so important to the economic security of American workers. Over the years, Congress has passed various laws designed to protect and strengthen the health and pension benefit programs that millions of American workers and retirees depend on.

Congress needs timely and objective data in order to determine and ensure that these critical programs are delivering needed benefits. When Government data is not available, one of the most valuable resources we have to help us understand what is happening in these areas is the nonpartisan and nonprofit Employee Benefit Research Institute, EBRI, which marks its 30th anniversary this year.

EBRI is a rare organization in Washington: It does not take policy positions and it does not lobby—its mission is to provide objective, accurate, reliable research. One of the reasons its work gets attention and is respected is because EBRI does not have an ideological agenda and it does not try to “spin” the numbers. Because EBRI is a non-advocacy organization, legislators on both sides of the aisle can use its work with confidence.

EBRI also has important educational initiatives, in particular its “Chose to Save” program, which has produced and distributed award-winning public service announcements designed to help Americans wake up to the need for saving. This campaign also provides

valuable tools so workers can quickly and easily determine a “Ballpark Estimate” of how much they need to save, and gives them pointers on how to start saving and where to go for help.

EBRI was created partly as a result of the enactment in 1974 of ERISA, the major Federal law governing health and retirement benefits, because employers needed objective, reliable information about benefit trends. Much has changed since then, both in the benefits that American workers receive, and in the Federal laws that govern those benefits. EBRI's work has helped lawmakers, plan sponsors, workers, and the news media understand current trends and how proposed legislative changes are likely to affect the benefits system.

EBRI has been guided by Dallas Salisbury, its president and chief executive officer. Mr. Salisbury has been an important analyst and contributor to national public policy decision making on employee benefits. His thoughtful and often prescient analyses have aided lawmakers throughout the years.

EBRI's research provides information that is critical to the decisions made by public policymakers. As EBRI celebrates its 30th anniversary, I want to thank them for decades of quality work. We look forward to their continued research and analysis in the future.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF U.S. NAVY PETTY OFFICER
MATTHEW J. O'BRYANT**

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember the life and courageous service of United States Navy Petty Officer Third Class Matthew J. O'Bryant.

Petty Officer O'Bryant was killed in a terrorist attack at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan, a cowardly act that claimed the lives of 53 people including two members of our country's armed forces. Matthew was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from Islamabad.

A native of Theodore, AL, Matthew O'Bryant excelled in the ROTC program at Theodore High School and was assigned to Navy Information Operations Command at Fort Meade, MD, as a cryptologic technician.

As a cryptologic technician, Petty Officer O'Bryant was in charge of maintaining the advanced communications and technological equipment so vital to America's success in 21st century warfare.

Petty Officer O'Bryant's brother, along with two of his cousins, had enlisted to serve in the Navy. Coming from a Navy family, Petty Officer O'Bryant was deployed to Pakistan for only 30 days before the blast that took his life. At his funeral, Matthew's brother, Lawrence, remembered him by saying, “There were four of us in the Navy. Well, there's three of us now. I guess there will always be four of us because he will always be in the Navy.”

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take a moment to reflect upon the many things that have helped to make this the greatest country on the face of the planet. And to that end, we must acknowledge that soldiers, sail-

ors, airmen, and marines like Petty Officer O'Bryant deserve the highest praise for their unselfish service and, in this particular case, for their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, I hope you and my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to Petty Officer Matthew O'Bryant. We should also remember his wife, Bridgett O'Bryant; his parents, Barbara and Tommy O'Bryant; his two sisters, Janet O'Bryant and Nancy O'Bryant; his brother, Lawrence O'Bryant; and his other relatives and many friends.

Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

May Matthew rest in peace. He was without question a true American hero.

**RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE
TERRY EVERETT ON
THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CON-
GRESS**

SPEECH OF

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, TERRY came to the U.S. House of Representatives a successful businessman and is now heading back to Alabama as a successful congressman. No one doubts that TERRY knows the values of a hard day's work. He's been a farmer, an Air Force specialist, a small business owner and newsman. He served the people of Alabama's second district, stretching from Autauga down to Dothan, for the last 16 years with that same work ethic, and they have benefited from his service.

TERRY came to Congress as an intelligence expert from his days in the Air Force and an agriculture expert from his days on the farm—skills he put to good use sitting on the Agriculture, Armed Services and Select Intelligence committees.

I'm going to miss TERRY when Congress reconvenes next year. The whole House will miss his work ethic, keen insight and ability to get things done. His retirement is a blow to those in Washington that know and rely on him, but if anyone deserves our thanks for a job well done it is certainly my friend and longtime colleague TERRY EVERETT.

**AUTHORIZE FUNDING FOR THE
NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM LAW
INSTITUTE FOR VICTIMS UNDER
CRIME VICTIMS LEGAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS AS PART OF
THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT OF
1984**

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3641, “A bill to authorize funding for the National Crime Victim Law Institute to provide support for victims of crime under Crime Victims Legal Assistance Programs as a part of the Victims of